

AUGUST 1,
~~May 2~~, 2007

Testimony before the Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs in support of Assembly Bill 270, relating to changing the members of the Council on Veterans Programs.

Good morning Senator Sullivan and members of the committee.

My name is Roger Fetterly. I am here to speak in support of Assembly Bill 270. I am the Legislative Officer for the Wisconsin Council of Chapters of the Military Officers Association of America. We have 5 chapters in the state with approximately 900 members. We are affiliated with the 460,000 members of the national Military Officers Association of America.

Our association, along with The Retired Enlisted Association represents the interests of more than 35,000 active duty, National Guard, Reserves and retired members of the military services residing in or serving from the State of Wisconsin. In many cases our members served 20 years or more in the armed forces of the United States and returned to our native state as veterans. We make a valuable contribution to Wisconsin's veterans community and the State's economy. We are strong supporters of our national defense and we continue to provide financial and morale support to veterans returning to our community.

Membership for the Military Officers Association of America and The Retired Enlisted Association on the Council on Veterans Programs would help us continue to contribute to the well-being of veterans and their families and honor their sacrifices and the hardships experienced in serving our country in face of great danger to freedom and democracy.

We have been working with the Council on Veterans Programs for about the last 3-4 years and they are in support of our membership on the Council.

I have not seen a fiscal note on this bill, but the cost should be negligible or neutral because our membership on the Council would be offset by the deletion of two inactive organizations from the Council.

We ask for your support on AB 270 and thank you for considering this legislation.

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RESOLUTION OF THE WISCONSIN COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS-MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

WHEREAS, The Wisconsin Council of Chapters of The Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) is an affiliate of The Military Officers Association of America, a national association of more than 460,000 active, reserve, guard, retired or former commissioned or warrant officers in all component of the Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, Public Health Service and NOAA, and

WHEREAS, The Military Officers Association of America is a nonprofit veterans association dedicated to maintaining a strong national defense and to preserving the earned entitlements of officer and enlisted members of the uniformed services and their families and survivors, and

WHEREAS, The Wisconsin Council of Chapters-MOAA represents the interests of more than 35,000 active duty, Guard, Reserve and retired members of the uniform services residing in the State of Wisconsin, and

WHEREAS, The Wisconsin Council of Chapters-MOAA has chapters in the following areas throughout Wisconsin: Southeastern, Southern, Northeastern, Lacrosse and Eau Claire, and

WHEREAS, Many of the members of Wisconsin MOAA chapters have served 20 or more years on active duty or in the uniform services and have a wealth of knowledge and experience in leadership, management and technical fields which can make a valuable contribution to Wisconsin's veterans community and Wisconsin's economy, and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin Chapters of The Retired Enlisted Association (TREA) is an organization with a mission and purpose similar to the MOAA Council and Chapters, and

WHEREAS, The Wisconsin MOAA and TREA chapters support and participate in events and activities at veterans hospitals and state veterans homes, and military support groups for activated and deployed military units, and

WHEREAS, The Wisconsin MOAA and TREA chapters contribute to the well-being and morale of veterans and their families in our communities and give recognition for their sacrifices and the hardships experienced while serving our country in time of need, and

WHEREAS, Neither the MOAA nor TREA Chapters are represented on the Wisconsin Department on Veterans Affairs Council on Veterans Programs,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the members of Wisconsin MOAA and TREA chapters urge their State Senate and Assembly representatives to introduce and support an amendment to Section 15.497(2) (a) of the Statutes that would add one representative of the Wisconsin Council of the Military Officers Association of America and one representative of The Retired Enlisted Association to the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs Council on Veterans Programs.

THIS RESOLUTION authorized by the unanimous consent of the members of the Wisconsin Council of Chapters-Military Officers Association of America, assembled at the State Capitol, Madison, Wisconsin on the 13th day of January, 2007.



LtCol. Edwin S. Addison III, USAFR (Ret)

Secretary, Wisconsin Council, Military Officers Association of America